

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-11. (Cancelled)

1 12. (Currently Amended) A slider, comprising:
2 a body;
3 a transducer for transferring information to and from a rotating disk medium
4 during read and write operations; and
5 first and second rails, wherein each of the rails has a leading edge that faces into a
6 general direction of relative motion between the slider and the medium, a trailing edge
7 that faces away from the direction, and an air-bearing surface, the leading edge has a
8 width that is substantially perpendicular to the direction, the trailing edge has a width that
9 is substantially perpendicular to the direction, the width of the leading edge is
10 substantially narrower than the width of the trailing edge, and the leading edge is a
11 pointed tip that extends to the body and is spaced from outer side surfaces of the body,
12 and each of the rails includes a V-shaped portion, a narrow part of the V-shaped portion is
13 the leading edge, a wide part of the V-shaped portion is spaced from the leading edge and
14 ~~The slider of Claim 11 wherein the wide part of the V-shaped portion is the trailing edge.~~

1 13. (Previously Presented) The slider of Claim 12 wherein a thickness of the
2 narrow part of the V-shaped portion is substantially identical to a thickness of the wide
3 part of the V-shaped portion.

1 14. (Previously Presented) The slider of Claim 12 wherein a thickness of the
2 narrow part of the V-shaped portion is substantially less than a thickness of the wide part
3 of the V-shaped portion.

15-21. (Cancelled)

1 22. (Currently Amended) A slider, comprising:
2 a body;
3 a transducer for transferring information to and from a rotating disk medium
4 during read and write operations; and
5 first and second rails, wherein each of the rails has a leading edge that faces into a
6 general direction of relative motion between the slider and the medium, a trailing edge
7 that faces away from the direction, and an air-bearing surface, the leading edge has a
8 width that is substantially perpendicular to the direction, the trailing edge has a width that
9 is substantially perpendicular to the direction, the width of the leading edge is
10 substantially narrower than the width of the trailing edge, and the leading edge is a
11 pointed tip that extends to the body and is spaced from outer side surfaces of the body,
12 each of the rails includes a wedge-shaped portion, a narrow part of the wedge-shaped
13 portion is the leading edge and a wide part of the wedge-shaped portion is spaced from
14 the leading edge, and~~The slider of Claim 20 wherein~~ each of the rails includes a
15 rectilinear portion between the wedge-shaped portion and the trailing edge, and the
16 narrow part of the wedge-shaped portion is aligned with an inner side of the rectilinear
17 portion and spaced from an outer side of the rectilinear portion.

23-70. (Cancelled)

1 71. (Previously Presented) A slider, comprising:
2 a transducer for transferring information to and from a rotating disk medium
3 during read and write operations; and
4 first and second rails, wherein each of the rails has a leading edge that faces into a
5 general direction of relative motion between the slider and the medium, a trailing edge
6 that faces away from the direction, and an air-bearing surface, the leading edge has a
7 width that is substantially perpendicular to the direction, the trailing edge has a width that
8 is substantially perpendicular to the direction, and the width of the leading edge is
9 substantially narrower than the width of the trailing edge, each of the rails includes a
10 wedge-shaped portion, a narrow part of the wedge-shaped portion is the leading edge and

- 11 a wide part of the wedge-shaped portion is spaced from the leading edge, each of the rails
- 12 includes a rectilinear portion between the wedge-shaped portion and the trailing edge, and
- 13 the narrow part of the wedge-shaped portion is aligned with an inner side of the
- 14 rectilinear portion and spaced from an outer side of the rectilinear portion.